

REMARKS

This is in response to an Office Action that was mailed on December 12, 2008. Claims 1-19 and 21 were pending in that action. Claims 1, 7-19 and 21 were rejected and claims 2-6 were objected to. With the present response, claims 1, 3 and 4 are amended. Claims 2, 17-19 and 21 are cancelled. The remaining claims are unchanged.

It is respectfully pointed out that all amendments proposed herewith are appropriate for entry after final. Applicant has simply moved the elements of dependent claim 2 into its immediately adjacent independent claim 1. Applicant has also adjusted the dependencies of claims 3 and 4 in order to accommodate the cancellation of claim 2. Other than this, Applicant has simply cancelled claims. Accordingly, no amendment proposed herewith raises any new issue that has not already been considered by the Examiner. Further, the amendments are being made in order to conform to an indication of allowable subject matter in the latest Office Action. Thus, the amendments are believed to place the case in condition for allowance. Accordingly, consideration and entry of the amendment after final are respectfully solicited.

Beginning on page 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner indicated that claims 2-6 would be allowable if re-written in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. With the present response, Applicant has amended the claims to be in complete conformance with this indication of allowable subject matter. Given that independent claim 1 is consistent, following the amendment, with the indication of allowable subject matter, Applicant has left as pending dependent claims that are dependent upon the allowable claim. Applicant has cancelled claims that are not consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that all pending claims are consistent with the indication of allowable subject matter. Accordingly, consideration and allowance of all pending claims are respectfully solicited. More particularly, consideration and allowance of claims 1 and 3-16 are respectfully solicited. The Director is authorized to charge any fee deficiency required by this paper or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 23-1123.

Respectfully submitted,
WESTMAN, CHAMPLIN & KELLY, P.A.

By: /christopher l holt/
Christopher L. Holt, Reg. No. 45,844
Suite 1400
900 Second Avenue South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-3319
Phone: (612) 334-3222 Fax: (612) 334-3312

CLH:rkp